

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2189

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PPOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ON KIM, DONG-JO PROBLEM, ET  
C.

REF: STATE 69170

1. I MET YESTERDAY, MARCH 17, PRIVATELY WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FOR FIRST TIME SINCE HIS RETURN. FOREIGN MINISTER PARK WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED WITH HIS RECENT SWING THROUGH EUROPE AND U.S. CONCLUDING ROKG PRESTIGE MUCH IMPROVED BASED ON HIS RECEPTION PARTICULARLY IN WASHINGTON, LONDON, AND PARIS. HE MUCH APPRECIATED OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH SECRETARY VANCE. FELT TALK WAS USEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE.

2. FONMIN ALSO RECOUNTED HIS MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN AND FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER, NOTING THAT BOTH HAD PRAISED RECENT ROKG ACTIONS IN HUMAN RIGHTS AREA. HE SAID FURTHER PROGRESS COULD BE EXPECTED IN THIS AREA, GIVEN POSITIVE RESULTS ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED. I STRONGLY ENCOURAGED SUCH STEPS, POINTING OUT THAT DISSIDENT EFFORTS SEEMED HAVE NO DOMESTIC EFFECT GIVEN STRENGTH OF GOVERNMENT'S POSITION. FORNMIN RESPONDED THAT ONE CONCERN HAS BEEN DISSIDENT EFFORTS TO APPEAR TO FOREIGN AUDIENCES RATHER THAN DOMESTIC OPINION; I  
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POINTED OUT THAT EVEN IN THIS RESPECT DISSIDENTS' EFFORTS ARE HAVING LESS EFFECT THAN IN PAST DUE TO LIVERIALIZATION TENDENCIES IN ROK. WE ALSO BRIEFLY DISCUSSED PLS 480 PROBLEM AND IFI LOANS. FORNMIN APPEARED FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO OUR NEW PROPOSAL ON PL 480 EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WHEN I EMPHASIZED AGAIN THAT KOREA WAS NOT INCLUDED ON ANY "LIST" OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATORS. IN THIS CONNECTION I

POINTED TO U.S. VOTE FOR ADB LOAN KOREAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.

3. OUR TALK FOCUSED, HOWEVER, MUCH MORE ON KIM, DONG-JO PROBLEM. FORNMIN WAS QUITE REALISTIC ABOUT CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL PROSPECTS FOR KOREAN-RELATED LEGISLATION AND NOT REPEAT NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR TRANSFER LEGISLATION PARTICULARLY. HE REALIZED KIM, DONG-JO PROBLEM LAY AT THE HEART OF CONGRESSIONAL DIFFICULTIES. I GAVE HIM BRIEF SUMMARY OF MY DISCUSSIONS RELATING TO CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEM DURING RECENT CONSULTATIONS WHICH REINFORCED HIS CONCERNS.

4. FORNMIN THEN LAUNCHED VIRTUAL MONOLOGUE ON POSSIBILITIES OF SOME FORM OF STATEMENT BY KIM, DONG-JO WHICH MIGHT SATISFY ETHICS COMMITTEE'S NEEDS, AT LEAST IN PART, HE EMPHASIZED THAT SWORN TESTIMONY BEFORE COMMITTEE IN SEOUL OR WASHINGTON OUR OF QUESTION. BUT HE CONJECTURED ABOUT VOLUNTARY STATEMENT ON "PERSONAL BASIS" DESIGNED TO REFURBISH KIM, DONG-JO PERSONAL REPUTATION IN U.S. HE WENT SO FAR AS TO TALK ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF KIM, DONG-JO RESIGNING FIRST BEFORE MAKING SUCH A STATEMENT. I STRESSED THAT "OFFICIALLY" ADMINISTRATION WOULD NOT REQUEST OR PRESSURE ROKG ON THIS ISSUE GIVEN BROADER INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY ISSUE. ON OTHER HAND I "ON PERSONAL BASIS" ENCOURAGED HIM TO CONFIDENTIAL

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EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES FEASIBLE FROM ROKG VIEWPOINT, NOTING THAT GIVING LESS THAN FORMAL TESTIMONY MIGHT NOT FULLY SATISFY ETHICS COMMITTEES. WE LEFT IT AT THAT AND FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION WHEN AMBASSADOR KIM RETURNS TO SEOUL.

5. FORNMIN DID NOTE THAT WHILE NOTHING GOOD WAS EXPECTED FROM FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS, REFERENCE TO BLUE HOUSE MEETINGS INCLUDING PRESIDENT RESENTED. MY GUESS FROM TALKING TO FORNMIN AND OTHERS IN ESTABLISHMENT IS THAT FRASER HEARINGS, ALTHOUGH DISCOUNTED IN ADVANCE, WILL STILL HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT ON POSSIBILITY OF GETTING ASSISTANCE ON KIM, DONG-JO AFFAIR -- PARTICULARLY IN BLUE HOUSE. NEVERTHELESS, AS NOTED ABOVE, QUESTION IS STILL BEING ACTIVELY EXPLORED BY FORNMIN AND I MUST PRESUME BY OTHERS.  
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## Message Attributes

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